



# Mountain Flyer

JULY 2006

ISSUE No. 2

## CALENDAR

*8-15 July WV Wing  
Cadet Encampment –  
Camp Dawson*

*21-29 July WV Wing  
Aerospace Education  
Trip— Oshkosh WI*

*12 August WV Wing  
Cadet Competition  
Workshop — Charleston*

*19-20 August Flight  
Clinic & National Check  
Pilot School— Wing HQ*

*26 August Wing  
Commanders Call —  
TBA*

*1-17 September  
SAREX—TBA*

*October 2006 Wing  
Conference & Banquet  
— Charleston*



**Col Rodney A Moore – Wing Commander**

**Major Jeffery Schrock – Director of Public Affairs**

**Major Amelia Brooks - Editor**

## Gippsland Airvan used for SDIS Training

**By Major Jeffery Schrock  
Director of Public Affairs**

For the first time, an aircrew from the West Virginia Wing Civil Air Patrol used the Gippsland GA8 Airvan to conduct training using the Satellite Digital Imagery System (SDIS). The training was held at Clarksburg Composite Squadron Headquarters located at Harrison Marion Regional Airport at Clarksburg, W.Va.



*The Gippsland GA 8 Airvan taxis into Harrison-Marion Regional Airport at Clarksburg, W.Va.*

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Shawn Thorn, Wing Assistant Director of Emergency Services conducted the classroom training to familiarize attendees with how the SDIS system works. Twenty-Six students were trained to become SDIS operators. Afterwards, aircrews were formed to fly using the GA8 Airvan and a Cessna 182T aircraft, take pictures, download them from a camera to a laptop, and then email the photos through a satellite internet link to mission base.

West Virginia Wing has aircraft with the SDIS system installed, with more aircraft in the fleet ready and waiting. "We did need to learn more about it," said Wing Commander Col Rodney A. Moore. "I'm pleased with the turnout." Moore said with the upcoming hurricane season, he fully expects one or two airplanes with the SDIS system from West Virginia to be deployed, and said the Wing needs to be ready.

SDIS or satellite-transmitted digital imaging system is a technology Civil Air Patrol developed, and now uses nationwide to take high-resolution aerial images of targets on land or at sea.

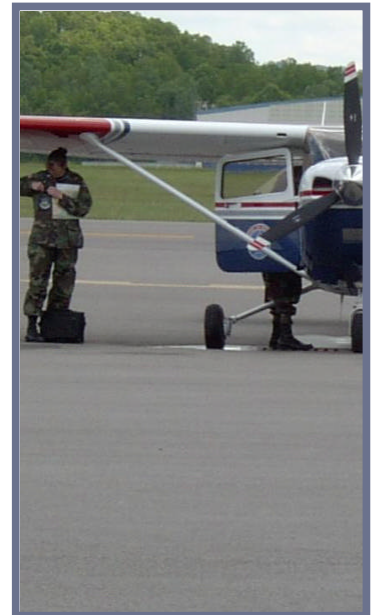
After taking a digital image at the highest camera resolution, an image can be cropped to provide the best resolution in a smaller file size, which allows for the shortest transmission time. Delivery time depends on the size of the image, but averages less than two minutes for cropped, higher-resolution images.

## Middle East Region observes Wing during training exercise

The West Virginia Wing Civil Air Patrol conducted an operational training exercise observed by members of the Middle East Region, and Middle East Region Liaison Office of Civil Air Patrol on May 20, 2006. The activity took place at the Harrison Marion Regional Airport at Clarksburg, W.Va.

Approximately 95 Wing personnel attended. Aircrews and ground teams conducted prescribed search patterns, directional finding (DF) searches, and air/ground communication exercises in accordance with standard operating procedures of the Wing. Additionally, Satellite Digital Imagery System (SDIS), Homeland Security, and Counter Drug scenarios were also assigned.

Members of the Clarksburg Composite Squadron made sure all participants were fed by setting up a concession stand to help raise money for the upcoming Aerospace Education trip to Oshkosh, WI.



*From left, a cadet gives the clear sign for a Civil Air Patrol aircraft to depart for a sortie mission; Members of the West Virginia Wing receive their morning briefing before the training mission begins; an aircrew returns from completing their sortie mission.*

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## Wing participates in region wide search for missing pilot

**By Major Jeffery Schrock  
Director of Public Affairs**

An aircraft and its pilot missing several days were located on Sunday, April 30 under heavy foliage on a wooded mountain slope outside Mercersburg, Pa. The pilot didn't survive the crash.

The missing Cessna 172 and pilot David K. Weiss, 72, of Bethesda, Md. was located at approximately 12:40 p.m. Information developed the night before to allow mission planners to design a search area focused on all faces of the "punch bowl" mountain formation in Maryland and Pennsylvania. The body was found in the wreckage and was identified by his sons, Steve and Mark Weiss. The pair contacted the nearest Civil Air Patrol ground team by radio and provided GPS coordinates of their location. Ground Team Alpha, led by Capt. Debbie Boggs of the West Virginia Wing was approximately 1 ½ miles away at the top of Two-Top Mountain, and was descending the mountain in their search of the western slopes at the time of the report.

Alpha team arrived at the scene at approximately 1:15 p.m. Steve and Mark Weiss spoke with team members and then returned home. Lt. George Gragan, of Parkersburg Composite Squadron, and Ground Team Leader Boggs confirmed the tail number and location of the victim, reported to mission base, and requested assistance from emergency medical services, the local coroner, and fire department.

Alpha team consisted of Ground Team Leader, Capt. Debbie Boggs, Charleston Cadet Squadron; Ground Team Members from the Charleston Cadet Squadron, Cadet Roger Pettit, Cadet Courtney Ropp, and Cadet Andrew Eads; from the Parkersburg Composite Squadron, Lt. George Gragan, Cadet Patrick Gragan, Cadet Austin Ross, Cadet Justin Ross, and Cadet Tyler Lewis.

Bravo team consisted of Ground Team Leader, 1 Lt. Thomas Plass of the Beckley Composite Squadron and Ground Team Members from North Carolina Wing, Capt Craig Richardson, 1st Lt Robert Mason, 2nd Lt JoAnn Mason and 1st Lt George Mason; from Beckley Composite Squadron, 2nd Lt James Lewis and Cadet Lendon Childress.



*Major Bart Rogers and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Lynn Hoffman of West Virginia Wing's Martinsburg Composite Squadron give a ground briefing to members of a Pennsylvania Civil Air Patrol ground team before they search for a Maryland CAP member missing on a flight from Gaithersburg, Md.*

## Former Spaatz Award Cadet retires from U.S. Air Force

**By Lt Col Dennis Barron  
Wing Chief of Staff**

The first cadet from the Martinsburg Squadron to ever earn the coveted Carl E. Spaatz Award, the highest cadet award in the Civil Air Patrol, retired from the U. S. Air Force on June 1<sup>st</sup>, after completing 21 years of dedicated active duty service.

Lt Col Jack R. Downey first joined the Martinsburg Squadron, as a teenager, in November 1977. He quickly advanced through the ranks of the cadet program, earning the prestigious Spaatz Award in 1983. In addition, that same year, Lt Col Downey was awarded the Frank E. Brewer Memorial Aerospace Education

Award by National Headquarters, in the cadet category, an honor no other WV cadet has ever earned. Both awards were presented to Lt Col Downey during the CAP National Board Meeting, in Las Vegas, Nevada, in August 1983. As a cadet, Lt Col Downey attended three summer encampments,

### Retired (cont pg 3)

serving as the Cadet Commander in 1982. He visited Great Britain as a participant in the International Air Cadet Exchange Program that same year. He also received a solo scholarship from the WV Wing and served as the Chairman of the Cadet Advisory Council.

After graduating from Martinsburg High School, Lt Col Downey attended West Virginia University on both Civil Air Patrol and Air

Force R.O.T.C. scholarships. Upon graduating from WVU, in 1985, with a degree in Aerospace Engineering, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U. S. Air Force and assigned to Wright-Patterson AFB.

He later would serve tours of duty at Los Angeles AFB, CA; Offutt AFB, NB; and at the Pentagon, where he is presently assigned. Lt Col Downey is leaving the Air Force as

the Deputy for Programs in the Ballistic Missile Defense System. After his formal retirement on June 1<sup>st</sup>, Lt Col Downey will continue to work as a government contractor on the missile defense systems.

Lt Col Downey still maintains his membership in the Martinsburg Squadron, although he and his wife, along with their four children, now live in Woodbridge, VA.



*Lt Col Downey being presented with a retirement gift from Maj Gen Christopher Anzalone Missile Defense Agency's Deputy Director for Engineering and Test.*

To learn more or join Civil Air Patrol  
call 304-343-8866 or visit [www.wvwg.cap.gov](http://www.wvwg.cap.gov)

